

**Resumed session of the fifth United Nations Environment
Assembly (UNEA5.2)**

*Theme: Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the
Sustainable Development Goals*

National Statement of ROMANIA

H.E. Mr. Barna TÁNCZOS

Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests

28 February 2022, 11.30 – 13.00

Nairobi

**Mister President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation and congratulate the UNEA Presidency and the UNEP Secretariat for organizing the resumed session of the 5th UNEA, as we set out last February.

We acknowledge the success of UNEA5.1. as regards the adoption of the UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy, the Programme of Work and budget. These building blocks allow UNEP to tackle the triple planetary crisis and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The context in which the UNEA5.2 is taking place is essential for building a resilient vision for our environment aiming to strengthen actions for nature as part of our pledge to achieve the SDGs. That is why the resumed session of UNEA is a good opportunity for debating solutions towards a green recovery process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Romania believes that multilateral environmental efforts are the keys to catalysing our engagements towards global environmental challenge, especially in the case of plastic pollution which requires global solutions, coordination, shared responsibility, and collective accountability. I hope wholeheartedly that one of the main outcomes of UNEA5.2 will be the launching an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) towards a legally binding global agreement on Plastics, that encompasses the full lifecycle of plastics including microplastics.

We also consider that UNEA has to address other critical issues, including biodiversity loss, chemical waste, nitrogen management and better management of resources and minerals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy defines the national framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Apart from it, we are currently developing a strategy for the transition to circular economy and preserving natural resources.

As part of our efforts to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic, we adopted a National Recovery and Resilience Plan targeting investments and reforms in various sectors (water, biodiversity, waste, circular economy).

In order to reduce the environmental impact of plastics, Romania promoted legislative restrictions for the commercialisation of certain plastic products, especially single-use products. Also, targets have been set up for the reduction of consumption for other single-use plastic products, while continuously promoting environmental-friendly alternatives.

In order to protect its forests, Romania implements an integrated information system for wood tracking (called SUMAL 2.0). This application improves timber traceability and discourages illegal logging.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a **very special year for the environment!** We celebrate 50 years since the creation of UNEP. This moment can inspire us in designing future solutions for the environment and guide us towards building a better future.

In this regard, Romania believes that **the resumed session of UNEA represents a historical moment for the environment!**

Thank you for your attention!